

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BUREAU OF HIGHWAY DESIGN**

NHDOT Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC) Meeting

DATE: May 26, 2021

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

ATTENDED BY: N. Sanders, C. Tufts, D. Topham, A. Belenz, K. Mullen, S. Bogle, S. Verdile, T. Blagden, T. Dunn, S. Gunn, A. Paulino, C. Prolman, M. Marshall, J. Bighinatti, G. Bakos
All participants attended online

SUBJECT: Complete Streets Advisory Committee (CSAC) Meeting

CSAC MEETING NOTES:

1. Introductions

2. State of CSAC:

a. Direction of CSAC Going Foreword

- Direction from Commissioner
 - i. NHDOT staff solicited input from the group and plans to discuss with the Commissioner
- Discussion of what focus/purpose will be of group
 - i. In the past CSAC has been project-focused – should that be the case moving forward?
 - ii. CSAC is Advisory to the Commissioner.
 - iii. NHDOT plans to revisit CSAC's mission and goals with the Commissioner
 - iv. Writing letters to the Commissioner may not be the best way to communicate with the Department
 - v. CSAC recommendations and/or questions may be better facilitated through NHDOT Staff directly to the appropriate Bureaus (as opposed to letters to the Commissioner).
- Active Transportation Engineer Position Discussion
 - i. February of 2019 the position moved from Rail and Transit to Highway Design Safety Section, but more importantly into Project Development
 - ii. More of an active relationship with project development staff – to evaluate AT needs with every project from the beginning
 - iii. Still work with the Rail and Transit Staff – handle "real estate" portion of rail trails
 - iv. Now moving to fill AT technician position – likely Summer/Fall 2021
- NHDOT Budget Status for AT Projects
 - i. NH HSIP funding smallest in the nation
 - ii. Less resurfacing will be taking place this year
 - iii. GACIT process is not where new money will be found, but how it will be allocated.
 - iv. Track State's investments for AT in projects – how much and how is it tracked?
 - v. NH Highway Design Guide hasn't been updated since the 1990s - Should CSAC play a role in a future update?
 1. Reviewed by FHWA
 2. Reviewed by ACEC
 3. Noted that Design Guide speaks to building new roads and there are very limited opportunities for new roads in NH

- vi. Include AT in design manual (includes 4 foot shoulders, but doesn't specify details near curb and guardrail)
 - b. Add AT infrastructure or review on to project review (brought up by Tim Blagden)
 - c. N. Sanders and S. Gunn will be reviewing State Rail Trail Plan, which is underway
 - d. Contract work so that AT projects do not take as long (something in between an in-house design and LPA project)
 - e. Some projects concluded and we did complete (will bring up in Item 4)
 - f. Bicycle counting at signalized intersections – find funding (more data to make more of a case)
 - g. NH deficits in pedestrian safety (change in policy at the top)
 - h. Break out groups for specific information
 - i. Data can be used to make case for projects
 - j. TYP projects are a small portion of NHDOT Projects
 - k. Infrastructure bill may include more money for projects
 - l. Revisit bylaws of CSAC Committee
3. Status of Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan:
- a. Currently working with Alta on draft plan
 - Draft Plan will be presented to NHDOT Front Office and all stakeholders including CSAC this summer (targeting late July)
 - We will be looking for comments from all stakeholders
 - b. Hospital data vs. Department of Safety data
 - Noted there is missing information from DOS
4. Previous or Ongoing CSAC Work Efforts:
- a. Brief Status Review
 - b. Data collection
 - Street light data?
 - How are different RPC's collecting, storing, and using data
 - RPCs assist Bureau of Traffic with motor vehicle counts
 - Is a robust data collection program necessary (decision-making, project development, justify investment, and identify areas of need)?
 - Collect non-motorized data as well as vehicles as part of Bureau of Traffic effort?
 - Install counting equipment as part of the project
 - What would a data collection program look like? Combination of permanent and/or temporary mobile counters and/or other data sources such as STRAVA or Street Light
 - Look into other bike ped data collection practices.
 - <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/>
 - STIC grants for innovation – fill out application for new technology
 - Maintenance for counters (resources)
 - Crash data (Dept of Safety on committee)
 - i. More detailed information on crash reports is needed
 - c. Other
 - Currently have 7 Regional bike maps, which are old (5-10+ years) and don't reflect the comfort of the facility for biking. Looking to develop BLTS (Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress) maps as a result of the Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan.
 - d. Chat notes

- From Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC to Everyone: 02:23 PM
 - i. https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Distribution-of-age-and-gender-of-Strava-users-in-the-city-of-Dresden_fig2_330564236
 - From Michelle Marshall, FHWA NH Division to Everyone: 02:29 PM
 - i. <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/innovation/>
 - From Tim Blagden to Everyone: 02:49 PM
 - i. The backdrop behind me is a portable covered bicycle parking facility. This will be deployed at NHDOT on Friday and remain there for a week.
 - ii. I'm looking for other locations to deploy for short term stays. The digital sign asks people if they think the structure is a good use of space or not. And if it encourages them to bike to the destination.
 - From Upper Valley Lake Sunapee RPC to Everyone: 02:50 PM
 - i. They've been extending it each month
 - From Scott Bogle (RPC) to Everyone: 02:55 PM
 - i. Cool Tim to see what the portable covered bike rack looks like! Interested to work on finding alternate locations.
 - From Michelle Marshall, FHWA NH Division to Everyone: 02:55 PM
 - i. has Nashua seen it?
 - From Gregory Bakos to Everyone: 02:56 PM
 - i. Agree, Nashua seems like a good candidate.
 - From Tim Blagden to Everyone: 02:56 PM
 - Yes. They were included in the original plans, which were to deploy at Market Baskets
6. Next meeting: June 23, 2021; 11:00 AM (Nick and Craig to develop agenda)
- a. For the near term, meetings will continue to be virtual (via zoom). Eventually in-person meetings with video component are anticipated.

Submitted by:

Nick Sanders, P.E.

NHDOT Active Transportation Engineer